

109. Deer Lake coho rearing

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Deer Lake is a 977-acre lake located on southeast Baranof Island, at the entrance to Patterson Bay. Deer Lake was stocked with approximately 850,000 coho salmon in 1985 and 1987 as part of NSRAA's barren lakes stocking program. In 1988, NSRAA had 700,000 coho salmon in excess of lake rearing capacity. Rather than destroy the fish or stock the lakes too densely, Deer Lake was stocked with the 470,000 coho; a fertilization program was started to increase primary and secondary productivity. In addition, fertilization allowed annual stockings due to the elevated zooplankton biomass. Commercial fertilizers have been applied annually from July through mid-September to (1) sustain zooplankton levels adequate for fish to grow to smolt stage in one year and (2) maintain nutrient levels to ensure good recruitment for next summers zooplankton crop. Annual stocking and fertilization continues.